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Rural Information Center

UPDATE

1990

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, MD 20705

RIC EXPANSION TO INCLUDE A RURAL HEALTH INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE SERVICE

The National Agricultural Library and the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) signed a three year interagency agreement in February establishing a new rural health information clearinghouse service within RIC.

The Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHES) is to be in operation by October 1990. It is to function with a new RIC "800" number to provide easy access to current information on how to help solve health care problems in small communities. HHS will transfer a total of \$900,000 for RIC to set up and operate RICHES during FY91 and FY92.

The Social Security Act authorizes the clearinghouse service responsibility to HHS's Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP). Congress mandated that the national rural health information clearinghouse service collect and disseminate rural health care information, research findings, and innovative health care delivery techniques to rural areas.

Jeffrey Human, Director, ORHP, liked the RIC information service model and approached RIC with the idea of incorporating the HHS health service with RIC to prevent duplicating federal efforts. In addition, HHS wanted to utilize the Cooperative Extension System nation-wide network to disseminate rural health information to local communities.

RIC IS INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT BUSH'S RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

President Bush announced his six new Rural Economic Development presidential initiatives on January 22. The Cabinet-level White House Economic Policy Council Working Group, chaired by Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter, developed the initiatives on rural economic development. Membership of the Working Group includes representatives of a dozen Executive Branch Departments and major agencies. The Working Group evaluated existing Federal rural development programs and developed policy options for improving rural program coordination and execution. It released its findings and recommendations in the January 1990 report: *Rural Economic Development for the 90's: A Presidential Initiative*.



Secretary Yeutter stated at a press conference following the President's announcement that rural development efforts must go beyond production agriculture to diversifying job sources and delivering community services more effectively to the 55 million people living in small and medium-sized communities.

The six key points of the new initiative include: (1) establishing a Presidential Council on Rural America (a primarily private rural sector group) to advise President Bush and Secretary Yeutter on ways of improving Federal rural development policy and program coordination; (2) implement-

ing a Rural Development Demonstration Program under the leadership of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development, Roland Vautour, which effort is to set up a series of projects for others to copy by illustrating how to assist with rural development and job creation; (3) instituting a permanent Cabinet-level White House Economic Policy Council Working Group on Rural Development; (4) organizing Rural Development Councils in each State, chaired by the State Farmers Home Administration Directors with representatives from all relevant State agencies that run Federal rural development programs locally and the Governor's offices; (5) targeting efficient application of Federal rural development program resources; (6) providing a center to give technical assistance and detailed information on Federal programs that service rural communities. The latter initiative is to take the form of an expansion of the Rural Information Center.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION WOULD EXPAND RIC'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The U. S. Senate passed the Rural Partnerships Act of 1989 (S.1036), sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, on August 2, 1989. The Bill expands RIC's responsibility level to that of a National Rural Assistance Information Clearinghouse.

The legislation also expands RIC's mandate to provide information about rural programs and services offered by Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as about offerings of non-profit organizations and institutions. Such rural services will include assistance programs for job training, education, health care, economic development assistance, and emotional and financial counseling. In addition, Congress provided in the legislation an annual authorization of \$500,000 for five years (FY90-FY94) for RIC to establish access to a comprehensive database of rural assistance programs from all levels of the public and private sector.

The U. S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3581, the Rural Economic Development Act of 1989, sponsored by Glenn English and Thomas Coleman, on March 22, 1990. The House incorporated the Senate Bill S.1036 on March 27, and is waiting for conference action.

RIC GRADUATE INTERN

Tanya Shimmons joined the RIC staff in January for a three month internship. Mrs. Shimmons earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1988 and will receive a Master of Library Science degree from Clarion University in December 1990. She is currently the Editorial Assistant for the *Rural and Small Library Services Newsletter*, published by the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship at Clarion University. Mrs. Shimmons plans to return to a rural community library position and utilize her education and training to participate in community economic development programs.

RIC AND THE NATIONAL RURAL STUDIES COMMITTEE PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT PROJECT

The National Rural Studies Committee (NRSC) and RIC are cooperating on a joint project to annotate a rural studies bibliography. The NRSC, funded by a W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant, is at the Western Rural Development Center, Oregon State University. NRSC members included in the bibliography approximately 200 titles selected from compilations of rural studies literature in such areas as economics, sociology, political science, etc., which the NRSC had requested from nationally recognized experts. NRSC approached RIC last year with the proposal that RIC participate in the project by annotating the selected titles. Upon entering into the arrangement with NRSC, RIC hired Scott McKearney, a research assistant in the University of Maryland's Department of Sociology, to do the hands-on annotation work. RIC and NRSC plan to publish the final annotated bibliography in a National Agricultural Library series.

RIC OUTREACH

• NEW RIC PUBLICATIONS

Hazardous and Toxic Waste Management. Prepared by Louise Reynnells. 1979-1989. 227 citations. October 1989. 23 p.

Historic Preservation Resources. Prepared by Diane Brigham, RIC Graduate Intern, Clarion University . January 1990. 21 p. Rural Information Center Publication Series (RICPS), No. 13.

Journals Significant to Rural Development Received at the National Agricultural Library. Prepared by John D. H. Kane III and Dorothy Heise. RICPS, No. 11. December 1989. 23 p.

Promoting Tourism in Rural America. Prepared by John D. H. Kane III. December 1989. RICPS, No. 12. 12 p.

• RIC INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

Revitalizing the Rural South: Extension's Role in Enhancing Quality, Birmingham, AL, January 16-18. Conference sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State, MS.

"Beyond Decline: America's Resurgence in the New Century," Denver, CO, January 22-24. Conference sponsored by the Center for the New West, Denver, CO.

Annual Conference on "Institutional Legacies and Challenges in the Rural South," Little Rock, AR, February 3-7. Conference sponsored by the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists.

Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission Conference, Memphis, TN, Feb. 5.

FIFTY STATES AND GUAM JOIN THE RIC PROJECT

Willie Larkin, Alabama*

Tony Nakazawa, Alaska

Nancy Cole Huber, Arizona

Michael Hedges, Arkansas

Clair Christensen, California

Larry Dunn, Colorado*

Bruce Wilbur, Connecticut

Dan Kuennen, Delaware

Bo Beaulieu, Florida*

Rusty Brooks, Georgia*

Carmen Pearson, Guam

Linda Cox, Hawaii

Corinne Rowe, Idaho

Jeri Marxman, Illinois*

Eldon Fredericks, Indiana*

Dan Otto, Iowa*

Bill Eberle, Kansas*

Paul Warner, Kentucky

Sanford Dooley, Louisiana

Nellie Hedstrom, Maine

Bruce Sorter, Maryland

Rick Feldman, Massachusetts*

Ray Vlasin, Michigan

Randy Cantrell, Minnesota*

Joe Schmidt, Mississippi*

Jim Preston, Missouri*

Dave Sharpe, Montana

Janet Meisenbach, Nebraska*

Michael Mooney, Nevada

Jerry Howe, New Hampshire

Jack Kupcho, New Jersey

Bob Czerniak, New Mexico

Tom Irvin, New York*

Stephen Lilley, North Carolina

Ron Anderson, North Dakota*

Greg Pasewitz, Ohio

Mike Woods, Oklahoma*

Shirley Scott, Oregon

Marshall Spayd, Pennsylvania

Howard Foster, Rhode Island

Verne House & Ellen Reneke,
South Carolina

Lloyd Hansen, South Dakota

George Smith, Tennessee*

Greg Taylor &

Douglas Steele, Texas*

Dave Rogers, Utah*

Betty Scannell &

Barry Stryker, Vermont

Bland Franklin, Virginia*

Nancy Sanders, Washington

Delmar Yoder, West Virginia*

Bob Dick, Wisconsin*

David Taylor, Wyoming*

* Denotes states with library representatives

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF SMALL AND RURAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

"The 21st Century: The Wilson Symposium on the Future of Public Libraries," will be held in Omaha, NE, September 26-29, 1990, under the joint sponsorship of the H. W. Wilson Foundation, The Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, and the Rural Library Service Committee, Public Library Association of the American Library Association. The two main objectives will be determining the nature of the community library during the '90's and developing an action agenda that will provide a framework and development timetable for rural and small public libraries. Registration information is available from Clarion University, 814-226-2109.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS OFFERS TWO NEW RURAL ARTS PROGRAMS

• RURAL ARTS INITIATIVE (RAI)

The National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Expansion Arts Program, in concert with a few state arts agencies (SAAs), has as its objective the strengthening of selected rural arts organizations. Matching grants of up to \$40,000 per year for not more than three years are available to the SAAs for regranting to two-to-five rural arts organizations within each state.

Participating rural arts organizations qualifying for the RAI grants may undertake activities which include the exhibition, production, presentation, or teaching of arts. The Program gives priority to organizations concerned with art and artists serving rural areas. Any type of art -- contemporary, classical or folk -- may qualify as long as it meets professional standards. "Rural" for purposes of the Program means communities of

sparse population that are isolated and generally of low economic status.

Additional program information and application forms are available from:

Expansion Arts Program (RAI)
National Endowment for the Arts
Nancy Hanks Center, Room 711
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
202-682-5443

• GRANTS FOR RURAL AND SMALL COMMUNITIES

NEA also offers project grants for rural and small communities, a new subcategory of its Design Advancement Program. These grants provide funds to rural and small town organizations which may lack staff expertise or access to technical design assistance. Applicants may obtain grants for creating design for a public facility, for devising a preservation plan for unique historic resources, for providing graphics consulting for signage, for planning for commercial growth arising from new traffic arteries, for studying zoning plan feasibility, for preparing a landscape plan for a public playground or park, or for conducting design workshops for local officials or residents.

Project grants are available in amounts from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for nonmetropolitan communities with less than 50,000 population (as defined by the U. S. Bureau of the Census)

Additional program information and application forms are available from:

Design Arts Program
National Endowment for the Arts
Nancy Hanks Center, Room 625
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
202-682-5437